

## **Children and Adults Health Programs Group**

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### **Antipsychotic Drug Use in Children (ADC) Affinity Group**

In early 2015, the Office of the Inspector General recommended that CMS work with State Medicaid programs to: (1) perform utilization reviews of Second Generation Antipsychotic (SGA) drugs prescribed to children, (2) conduct periodic reviews of medical records related to SGAs prescribed to children, and (3) consider other methods of enhanced oversight of SGAs prescribed to children. Since then, CMS has been working internally to respond to the recommendations. One of the strategies CMS proposes is the formation of the ADC Affinity Group to foster collaboration among states working to improve appropriate utilization of antipsychotic drugs in children.

The group will be facilitated by Dr. Judy Zerzan (Colorado Medicaid Medical Director), Dr. Renee Fox (CMCS Medical/Public Health Advisor), and Roxanne Dupert-Frank (CMCS Affinity Group Coordinator).

#### **Goals:**

Support state efforts to improve quality of care for children prescribed antipsychotic drugs by:

- Providing a forum to share quality improvement strategies, successes, and challenges
- Identifying different methods that states can select from to assess SGA drug utilization
- Improving communication and collaboration between Medicaid state program representatives and relevant stakeholder partners that will support enhanced review of SGA drugs prescribed to children
- Encouraging states with Medicaid managed care contracts to use their External Quality Review Organizations (EQROs) to conduct Focus Studies or Performance Improvement Projects related to antipsychotic utilization in children

#### **Benefits to states:**

- An opportunity to learn from other states and share best and promising approaches to assessing SGAs in children
- An opportunity to learn about leveraging resources available to states with managed care through external quality review
- Assistance in establishing a new network of partners to improve quality of care in this critical area of need for children
- Regular meetings/communication with CMS to support efforts

#### **Participants:**

- State Medicaid agency staff (with responsibility for fee-for-service or managed care) interested in improving quality of care provided to children prescribed antipsychotic drugs
- State Medicaid agencies that have already undertaken quality improvement efforts that would be willing to present their projects and findings (would not need to attend monthly)

- States with managed care and their contracted EQROs that have conducted, or are currently collaborating, on a similar topic (e.g., conducted a focus study, conducted a performance improvement project, or validated quality/performance measures related to SGAs)
- Staff from CMS committed to providing technical assistance to help states improve quality of care for children prescribed antipsychotic drugs

**Commitment:**

- Submission of the expression of interest form that indicates a state's interest in participating, identifies team members, and indicates leadership support
- Participation in one-on-one calls with CMS as needed by the state for 12 months beginning March 2016
- Participation in group quarterly calls with other states and quality improvement experts

To participate in the ADC Affinity Group or to share your state's experiences, please return your Expression of Interest form to: [MedicaidCHIPPrevention@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MedicaidCHIPPrevention@cms.hhs.gov) – by March 4, 2016. If you have questions, please contact [MedicaidCHIPPrevention@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:MedicaidCHIPPrevention@cms.hhs.gov).